

'Education For Climate Justice' Workshop Series organised by:



Unlearning the narratives: centering anti-racist education in a climate justice curriculum

20 February 2021

Programme and Bios

10:00 – 10:20

Welcome & Introduction

Zarina Ahmad, CEMVO Scotland (Facilitator of the day)

Professor Ali Watson OBE, Third Generation Project and a Professor of International Relations at the University of St Andrews

10:20 – 11:10

Keynote Speaker: Yvette Williams, MBE (Justice4Grenfell) 'British History - Black Voices (being heard in a hostile environment)'

Yvette Williams MBE has a strong track record of delivery and experience in all aspects of leadership at a senior level; specialising in cultural and organisational change, promoting equality and diversity and public and community engagement strategies, for over 30 years. She worked with the Mangrove Community Association and served tenure as a Trustee for the Tabernacle Community Centre and the Pepper Pot Club (for Caribbean elders) in Notting Hill where she lives. She was a founding member of Operation Black Vote. Yvette was head of Equality and Diversity for the Crown Prosecution Service in London for 14 years, developing hate crime prosecution policies and community engagement strategies. She was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list in 2012.

Yvette is a co-founder of the Justice 4 Grenfell Campaign. The campaign has used a variety of media to ensure that Grenfell Tower disaster remains in the public eye. From the campaign's inception in June 2017, Yvette has been a key speaker at many events including the Women of the World festival, the Justice Lecture at the GMB union conference and TEDx London. In October 2019 the Justice 4 Grenfell team won the Significant contribution award as Woman of the Year; in April 2020 the Campaign won the Education Category at the New York Film festival for the film 'Grenfell and Social Murder' which was co-produced with the Open University and Hamlett Films. Yvette has written for and featured in a number of publications. In September 2020, Yvette featured on an iconic front fold out cover of British Vogue as one of 20 international social justice activists and also on the UK Ethnicity Awards Top 100 list.

11:10 – 11:20

Break

11:20 – 11:30

Recap and Welcome to Newcomers

11:30 – 12:15

Panel 1: A Community Conversation on anti-Racism and Climate (In)Justice with members of SCOREscotland

Facilitated by Jennifer Ba and Jolly Oluka, SCOREscotland

This conversation will discuss the following questions:

- Do you know enough about climate change or the climate crisis?
- Do you feel BME people are involved in climate conversations and are issues of anti-racism & climate justice on the agenda?
- Are certain countries and communities more affected and disadvantaged by climate change? (To use this if it won't have been covered in the conversation)

12:15 – 12:45

Lunch / Yin yoga Session with Annelise Piers

Yin yoga is a deeply meditative practice rooted in Traditional Chinese Medicine. The differentiator is long-held poses that target energy meridians believed to run in deeper connective tissues. This soulful practice helps make the body more flexible and strengthens the joints, while at the same time, heals deeply on the emotional and mental layers as it releases stuck energy.

12:45 – 13:15

Lunch / Nidra yoga Session with Annelise Piers

Yoga Nidra is also called Yogic Sleep. It's a practice of deep relaxation that guides your consciousness to the stage between waking and sleeping. One hour of Nidra is equivalent to four hours of quality sleep.

Annelise Piers specializes in physical and emotional healing, using a combination of yin yoga, essential oils and metaphor therapy. She is a qualified Hatha and Yin yoga teacher with Yoga Alliance USA, and an NLP Master Practitioner and Trainer, licensed by co-founder Dr. Richard Bandler and the Society of Neuro Linguistic Programming (USA & UK). She uses a potent mix of NLP and yin yoga to coach leaders in the corporate, in academia and women's health interventions. She has a global reach and a deep understanding of cross-cultural sensitivities, which she brings to her teachings.

13:15 – 13:30 Recap and Welcome to Newcomers

13:30 – 14:00 Live Story with Storyteller Mara Menzies

Mara is an award-winning performance storyteller and narrative artist, drawing on her rich, dual Kenyan/Scottish cultural heritage, to create worlds that explore contemporary issues through legend, myth and fantasy. She fuses ancient and modern in an intoxicating experience where the audience takes centre stage leading to invitations to perform around the world.

<https://www.marathestoryteller.com>

14:00 – 15:00 Panel 2: 'Decolonizing' Climate Education with Deborah McGregor (York University, Toronto), Jolly Oluka (SCOREscotland), Fope Olaleye (Activist), Callum Maclellan (James Gillespie's Highschool)

The panel discussion will be facilitated by Radhika Govinda and Callum McGregor, University of Edinburgh.

The panel discussion will focus on the following questions:

- How and why might we use anti-racist approaches and perspectives to educate about climate justice?
- What are some of the challenges as well as rewards involved in doing this work?

Deborah McGregor, Anishinabe, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair: Indigenous Environmental Justice. Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. Professor McGregor's research has focused on Indigenous knowledge systems and their various applications in diverse contexts including environmental and water governance, environmental justice, health and environment, climate change and Indigenous legal traditions. Professor McGregor remains actively involved in a variety of

Indigenous communities, serving as an advisor and continuing to engage in community-based research and initiatives. Professor McGregor has been at the forefront of Indigenous environmental justice and Indigenous research theory and practice. Her work has been shared through the IEJ project website <https://iejproject.info.yorku.ca/> and UKRI International Collaboration on Indigenous research <https://www.indigenous.ncrm.ac.uk/>.

Jolly Oluka holds an MPhil degree in Demography from Cairo Demographic Centre (Egypt) and a BSc in Population Studies from Makerere University (Uganda). In addition to these she holds a Special diploma in Population development, Certificate in Carbon Literacy and hold the City and Guilds Energy Awareness certificate that qualifies me as an Energy Efficiency Advisor. Since coming to Scotland, she has worked as a volunteer in different settings, and has been working with SCOREscotland Green Futures Project as the Development Officer since its inception in 2013. Previously, she worked as a Research Assistant with the Uganda Population Secretariat and as a Rural Development Project Manager & Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at a Resource Centre (Kinkizi Diocese Uganda). Jolly has a deep passion, great skills and experience in community development; empowering others to achieve their full potential and very passionate about climate change particularly its impact on food security.

Fope Olaleye is a Newcastle University Politics Graduate and was elected the Black Students' Officer for the National Union of Students from 2019/20 where they represented all African, Asian, Arab and Caribbean students (and those in the diaspora) in Further and Higher Education. Fope is a key figure and activist in championing decolonisation work, climate justice and national guidance on racial harassment. They are currently a facilitator who works with global organisations to design inclusive workplaces and their writing has been featured in The Guardian, gal-dem and the BBC, amongst others!

Callum MacLellan worked as an electrical design engineer for a water company in England before becoming a physics teacher a quarter of a century ago. He has taught in the borders, Argyll and Bute and Edinburgh and was head of science at Trinity Academy for a number of years. He recently converted to teaching science through the medium of Gaelic and in the past few months has been heavily involved in a climate change project bringing together young people and politicians. He has learned a lot from this, but principally it has underlined the need to make it easier for concerned people in various fields to find each other in order to work together and that is my next project idea.

15:00 – 15:30 Closing

Artist **Paola Rozo** (she/her) will document our series of events by creating a 'Living Image' that will capture the key messages, insights and soul of whatever takes place in the webinar.

Paola Rozo is a process-oriented social transformation and learning [visual] facilitator. She is a listener, illustrator and doodler committed to supporting people and group processes through visuals which enable deeper understanding, sense-making and connection. Paola has a wide experience in facilitating a more aware practice within the complex, dynamic and uncertain international development field around the world.